

Pardon possible for Chandler Sexual assault group seeks funds

BY ALEX GRANADOS
STAFF WRITER

Attorneys for convicted murderer Frank Chandler want mercy for their client and are citing conflicts of interest and misapplication of the law as just some of the reasons why he should live.

Chandler is scheduled to die Friday, but supporters, including his counsel and a former State Supreme Court justice, visited Gov. Mike Easley last week seeking clemency for the 32-year-old.

The trio says that the murder was accidental and that therefore Chandler should not be killed. "Easley was very interested and engaged in the arguments given," said Robert Orr, the former justice. "He obviously takes it seriously, as well he should."

Chandler's counsel — assistant capital defender Mark Rabil and attorney J. Clark Fischer — has written a letter to Easley explaining its rationale.

"This was an 'accidental' murder committed during the course of a

felony, a break-in," the letter stated.

Rabil said in an interview that the 90-year-old victim, Doris Poore, came upon Chandler in her house and screamed. A surprised Chandler swung his arm and hit Poore in the head, killing her.

The jury did not find that Chandler had acted with premeditation, the main requirement for first-degree murder.

But the prosecution claimed that he was seeking "pecuniary gain," one of many aggravating factors in a murder case that makes one eligible for the death penalty.

The star witness for the prosecution, Chandler's cellmate Jeffrey Wilson, provided the testimony regarding the aggravating factor.

He said Chandler searched for the woman's purse after hitting her, thus giving the prosecution all it needed to seek the ultimate punishment.

But Chandler did not find a purse and therefore did not gain from his crime.

Questions also have arisen regarding the star witness and his

relationship with Chandler's defense attorney, Terry Collins. Collins was disbarred in 1998 after pleading guilty to felony forgery charges.

Controversy surrounds the prosecution as well, Rabil said.

"The (district attorney) who prosecuted this case was removed from office two years after this case," he said. "Every lawyer in this case is unsavory."

Orr, who reviewed Chandler's case at the state Supreme Court level, said he did not focus on these aspects. He was the lone dissenter among the seven justices.

He said Chandler should not be executed because the aggravating factor did not apply in this case.

"If there wasn't an aggravator, it is an automatic life sentence," he said. "And this was the only aggravator submitted to the jury."

Neither Easley's office nor the state attorney general's office could be reached for comment.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

BY HEATHER ANDREWS
STAFF WRITER

Members of the University community are looking for funding to cover medical treatment for sexual assault victims.

The Victims' Assistance Fund has reached dangerously low levels — it now holds approximately \$900, about five times less than the ideal balance.

"Emergency room bills can average from \$500 to \$1,500," said Melinda Manning, assistant dean of students.

"Ideally, we would feel more comfortable with a balance around \$5,000 or \$6,000."

The Women's Affairs Committee of student government is working with officials to ensure that no victims will be turned away.

"That's something we absolutely don't want to happen," Manning said.

The fund, which is supported by student fee money, pays for emergency room costs, including medications, emergency contraception, X-rays and other related treatment that assault victims need.

The money also covers costly evidence collection, or a "rape kit,"

the results of which help identify an attacker.

Since August there have been 13 confidential reports of sexual assault filed on campus.

The statistic indicates that more people are using the fund than in recent years, but that doesn't necessarily mean that more people are being attacked, Manning said.

"We don't know if there's a rise (of sexual assaults on campus) or not," she said. "We know that more people are coming forward and reporting."

When Student Health Service shifted from being open 24 hours a day to a more standard business schedule, the fund also suffered.

The limited schedule forces student victims who are attacked after hours to seek care in emergency rooms where costs are higher, Manning said.

More victims resort to this option, as the likelihood of being assaulted is higher at night, when Student Health is closed, Manning said.

Diane Kjervik, director of the Carolina Women's Center, said it is critical for the campus to support women who have been victims of

sexual assault.

"You have to have the supports in place," she said. "I hope that the system can replenish the supply."

Menaka Kalaskar, chairwoman of Women's Affairs Committee, said members are examining how the Campus Safety and Security fee now is allocated to see if more of it can be used to support the Victims' Assistance Fund.

"We're going to look at where (the money) is sitting, and if it's sitting in funds that aren't being used, we'll see what we can do to get more of the money," Kalaskar said.

If the committee can't obtain student fees to keep the fund running, it will have to turn to donations, which supported the fund when it was created during the late 1980s, Manning said.

"If we have to, we'll go back to that," she said.

"We like having student fees because it's steady. ... The ultimate goal is to make sure we have enough money to pay for everybody who needs it."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

BURR

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did not narrow until the last weeks.

Burr said his success was because he never lost sight of what was essential to voters. "We never lost focus of our objective."

"On November 2nd, that is what mattered."

Once the 109th Congress convenes in January, the state will again have two Republican senators.

"I don't mean to sound partisan," he said. "But we will have two North Carolinians that are supporting each other."

Burr, who was courted to run for Senate by President Bush, said he sees Bush's victory as a mandate for change by the U.S. people.

"The president does have a mandate," he said. "A mandate that Congress and this administration

has to do something."

Burr talked about issues that will resonate with Tar Heels in the coming months: unemployment, health care insurance and keeping the state's military bases open. The military is the one of the largest employers in the state.

"The reality is we're going to close bases around the world," he said. "We need to get out and lead the fight."

Burr sees the war on terrorism as the biggest challenge facing the United States and the world. But he said exporting democracies to other countries will make the world safer.

"The world looks to America for leadership," he said. "That is where we are. I encourage you that there are some things worth fighting for."

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MILITARY

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an economic initiative that will benefit both the state and the military.

"There is no question that what we're working on has a dual use: technology for the civilian sector and also for the military," he said.

Crowell noted that the system and the state will profit at every level, from conducting basic research to creating the finished product.

"There is a lot of work in between to make biotechnology safe and useful," he said.

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LOBBYING

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proposed ordinance would have negatively affected members of small businesses and nonprofit groups. "It made it harder for them to approach their elected officials."

Pease said the coalition thought the meetings between town and University officials were inappropriate.

Verkerk confirmed that council members had met with University officials, but said she did not believe anything discussed at the meetings was of public concern. "We met very casually, and probably talked about our low-carb diets or something like that."

Nancy Sutfenfield, UNC vice chancellor for finance and administration, wrote in an e-mail that the University is carrying out state business, not lobbying.

The coalition does not have any immediate plans to revive its petition, Pease said. "We're still waiting, and we're hopeful that something will come of it," he said.

Greene also said the Town Council is not done with the issue. "The concerns that were raised are credible."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

THE Daily Crossword

By Victor Fleming

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ACROSS

- 1 Go with the flow
- 6 Ebullience
- 9 Spanish bulls
- 14 Israeli desert
- 15 Director Lupino
- 16 Insecticide target
- 17 Start of a quip
- 20 Equivalent wd.
- 21 "Le coq"
- 22 Caveat
- 23 Specific scholarly essay
- 26 Part 2 of quip
- 29 At the ready
- 32 Wing-shaped
- 33 Take care of
- 34 Heep of Dickens
- 36 Washington and Shore
- 38 Not close-minded about
- 39 Nine: pref.
- 40 Filled with reverence
- 43 "Spahn and ___ then pray for rain"
- 44 987-65-4321 grp.
- 45 Part 3 of quip
- 48 Seventy-six horns
- 49 Imitation gold coat
- 52 O.T. book
- 53 Colonel's chain's letters
- 56 End of quip
- 60 Muslim magistrates
- 61 Actor Carney

- 62 Chick of jazz
- 63 Idyllic gardens
- 64 Director Craven
- 65 Lugged

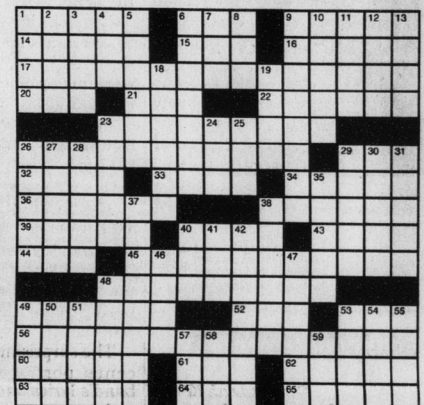
DOWN

- 1 Tropical cuckoos
- 2 Oppose
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- 4 Dogpatch
- 5 Foot: suff.
- 6 Soap-opera hunk, say
- 7 Wine choice
- 8 Sole cleaner
- 9 Concocts fraudulently
- 10 Spirited vigor
- 11 Absorbed
- 12 Eight: pref.
- 13 Restaurateur Toots
- 18 Dunkable treats
- 19 Actress Harlow
- 23 Singer Carmen
- 24 Cotton separator

PIT AERIE CAULS
ALA SLIMY LITUP
WORSHIPPEDIMAGE
PITH ESSEN HEW
ALEUTS RIB
WORTHYPRINCIPLE
SENIOR SNEAD
OFF ELMOS ASS
ALLOP AENEAS
RURALPROSEPIECE
TEE RAGLAN
AWE MOUSY HIND
LACKINGWORKTODD
ACRES HAGUE TOR
SOUGH STAGY SRA

- 25 Hood's pistol
- 26 Aqua and motor endings
- 27 Ken and Lena
- 28 Wife of Balder
- 29 Biblical peak
- 30 Like some kitchens
- 31 Narrow strip
- 35 Takes five
- 37 Bald
- 38 Danish seaport
- 40 Guided-projectile defense: abbr.
- 41 Spider's lair

- 42 Vain folk
- 46 Gloomy
- 47 American Revolution precursor
- 48 Poisonous substance
- 49 ___ upon a time...
- 50 Turnpike, e.g.
- 51 Ancient Persian
- 53 Miniature race car
- 54 Skedaddle
- 55 Attired
- 57 Crow's cry
- 58 Rage
- 59 Also



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Inbox 1

Message From 888-123-4567

How she r8?

CP 888-123-4567
4/23 2:28pm

Replay Options

Menu Contacts

Inbox 1

Message From 888-123-4567

U lie. That pic is on ur door. Tell d truth.

CP 888-123-4567
4/23 2:32pm

Replay Options

Message From 888-555-5555

Gr8 personality

CP 888-555-5555
4/23 2:38pm

Menu Contacts

Inbox 1

Message From 888-123-4567

No thx

CP 888-123-4567
4/23 2:40pm

Replay Options

Menu Contacts

Inbox 1

Message From 888-123-4567

K. See u 08

CP 888-123-4567
4/23 2:44pm

Replay Options

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